



Steve Radack, Commissioner
Harris County Precinct 3

PRECINCT THREE FIRST QUARTER REPORT 2015

Judge Marc Carter to speak at Commissioner Radack's Memorial Day event

State District Judge Marc Carter, a longtime jurist and former military officer who started an innovative court to help challenged veterans mired in the criminal justice system, will be the featured speaker at Commissioner Steve Radack's annual Memorial Day ceremony.

The event starts at 2 p.m. on May 25th at the Harris County War Memorial in Bear Creek Pioneers Park and salutes local residents who paid the ultimate price during wartime. The memorial is at 3535 War Memorial Drive and is near the park entrance off Eldridge Parkway.

The solemn ceremony will include presentation and posting of colors, the singing of *The National Anthem* and *America the Beautiful* by Rachel Boettcher and an opening and closing prayers by Pastor Ralph Douglas West of the Church Without Walls. There will also be a wreath ceremony, a 21-gun salute, participation by the Harris County Constable Precinct Five Color Guard, the Houston Police Department Honor Guard and an exhibition by the Langham Creek High School Air Force Junior ROTC Howlers, an unarmed drill team.

Precinct Three Parks Superintendent Steve Dorman will serve as master of ceremonies and introduce Judge Carter, who has presided over the 228th Criminal District Court since his appointment to the bench by former Gov. Rick Perry in 2003.

Before his appointment, Carter worked as a prosecutor in the Harris County District Attorney's Office and as a criminal defense attorney in private practice. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of Texas at Austin and his law degree from the Thurgood Marshall School of Law at Texas Southern University. He was commissioned in the U.S. Army Military Intelligence Corps in 1981 and resigned his commission as a captain in 1988.

Carter, who is married with two daughters, comes from a military family. His father and brother were career soldiers who served in Vietnam and Desert Storm, respectively. Another brother served in the U.S. Air Force and works at the Michael E. DeBakey Veterans Affairs Medical Center. The judge's nephew is a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and is assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division.

In addition to his regular duties in the 228th Criminal District Court, the judge also presides over the Harris County Veterans Court – the first of its kind in Texas. The unique program collaborates with the DeBakey Veteran's Hospital to provide vets facing problems in criminal courts with mental health and drug treatment options, job training and housing. His program, which can be accessed by all eligible veterans, has been featured on CBS' *60 Minutes* and PBS' *Need to Know*. Prior to running this court for veterans, Carter was also co-presiding judge of a court that supervised high-risk probationers fighting mental illness.

The Harris County War Memorial was built more than 29 years ago during the administration of former Precinct Three Commissioner Bob Eckels. It carries the names of county residents killed in World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the first war in the Persian Gulf, the war in Iraq and the conflict in Afghanistan.

In 2011, Commissioner Radack added the names of Merchant Marines killed during World War II to the monument. The names of those who served in the U.S. Coast Guard and died during various wars were also added.

Each year, the names of Harris County residents serving in the military who lost their lives in war zones during the previous year are added to the memorial in advance of the Memorial Day ceremony.

Anyone with questions about the monument or ceremony can call the Precinct Three Parks Office at (281) 531-1592. Patrons can also visit the precinct's website at www.pct3.hctx.net to look up names listed on the memorial.

Commissioner's annual Easter Egg Extravaganza scheduled

Commissioner Radack's annual Easter Egg Extravaganza will be Saturday, March 28th at Bear Creek Pioneers Park on Bear Creek Drive at Pavilion No. 6 starting at 10 a.m.

A coloring contest will start at 10 a.m. There will be a Homemade Easter Egg Contest (hard boiled or empty egg) and a contest for the Most Creative Homemade Easter Basket. Materials are supplied for the coloring contest. Participants in other contests need to bring entries from home.

Easter egg hunts start at 11 a.m. There will be four separate hunts for children in different age groups: under two-years-old, ages three to five, ages six to seven and ages eight to nine. For more information, call (281) 463-6300.

Richard & Meg Weekley Community Center now open and another special community project planned for Cypress

The Richard & Meg Weekley Community Center, 8440 Greenhouse Road, is open to the public. The 21,000-square-foot community center is named for real estate developer and leader Richard Weekley and his wife. It is the seventh such facility operated by Commissioner Radack.

Like other centers, it offers recreational classes and educational opportunities for youth, adults and seniors. There will also be space for meetings for homeowners, various groups and non-profit organizations. A large adjacent park complex is still a work-in-progress and will eventually feature walking trails, outdoor exercise equipment, playground equipment and other amenities.

For more information on services, classes and meeting space at the center, call (713) 274-3161.

In addition, Commissioner Radack has moved on to another project for the Cypress area – the development of historic Juergen Hall into the eighth Precinct Three community center.

The old dance hall is located in Cypress Top Historic Park, 26026 Hempstead Road. It became part of Precinct Three's family of parks in November 2008, when the larger park was dedicated. The park contains several carefully maintained older buildings cared for by the precinct and local historians.

The buildings were once part of the business district in the old railroad town of Cypress, originally known as Cypress Top and established in the 1850s. As a railroad town,

Cypress never really took off, but the small community remained vibrant. Residents remained tied to their roots and the old dance hall is part of the story of the old Texas town.

Precinct Three crews are currently making improvements and repairs to Juergen Hall so it can function as a community center and, though not as large as newer facilities, be able to handle classes, activities and meetings. An announcement about an opening date for the center will be coming soon.

Where to find construction updates and how to reach us

Updates on Precinct Three road and construction projects can be seen on Commissioner Radack's website at **www.pct3.hctx.net**. That data is updated monthly since this report is generated quarterly.

As always, Precinct Three encourages comments and questions. You can mail them to Commissioner Radack's office at 1001 Preston, 9th Floor, Houston, Texas 77002 or email us at pct3@hctx.net.